

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected.

Claim 1 is amended to correct a typographic error and include a feature as discussed, e.g., in paragraphs 0038-0045 of the specification as filed.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kakita, Howard; Yu, Edward; "Improving Process Maturity to Compete in the Desktop Printer Market", April 1998, PDMA Visions Magazine, pp. 1-8, hereinafter "Kakita". Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakita reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to specify that each of the ratings corresponding to one of the group consisting of initial level, repeatable level, defined level, managed level, and optimized level. This is not taught or suggested by any art of record, alone or in combination, and all rejections are traversed.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned to resolve any remaining issues.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicants assert that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that this Application be passed to issue.

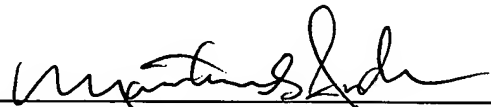
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *manderson@munckcarter.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK CARTER, P.C.

Date: 5/21/8


Matthew S. Anderson
Registration No. 39,093

P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, Texas 75380
(972) 628-3600 (main number)
(972) 628-3616 (fax)
E-mail: *manderson@munckcarter.com*